

Remarks

Claim 10 can be amended to fix the typographical error.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejection

The claim was amended so that the device is recited, and the device is a hardware device.

The term 'hardware' is supported in the specification. The term 'hardware' is the same as 'hardware device'. Lines 4, 5 of page 11 of the specification as originally filed December 29, 2003 states, "In another example, a user such as technical personnel, may wish to show only maintenance activities such as installed hardware and software, virus scans, etc." Hardware devices are those devices commonly installed in Microsoft operating systems which can be accessed under the device manager. In Microsoft XP and Windows 2000, the device manager can be accessed under the hardware tab of the system properties. The device manager manages hardware. The specification additionally states that representations may be used to indicate task progress such as in lines 5-10 of page 13 of the original specification filed December 29, 2003 which states, "for example, representations may be used to indicate the progress of a task, such as when an action starts 1032 and stops 1034. Additional examples include representations picking one a device is added 1036, a brief process being performed 1038, sending or transmitting data 1040, receiving data 1042, viewing an item of usage 1044, editing and item of usage 1046, installing software 1048, etc. to show actions performed by an item of usage." Line 17 relates to how devices can be hardware. The specification gives foundation for hardware device representation beginning at 17 of page 13 of the original specification stating, "likewise, representations for devices 1070 may be utilized by the present invention to indicate the usage of a device in conjunction with an item of usage, such as printing a document from a word processor, or items of usage pertaining to the device itself." The specification then lists a variety of hardware devices including a server, a computer, a printer, a compact disk read only memory, a floppy disk drive, a hard drive, a television, a satellite system, a videocassette recorder, and a modem, etc. Therefore, the specification suggests that the term 'device' relates to hardware.

Managing hardware devices is typically done in a device manager. Although the device manager in the Windows operating system is the most common list of hardware devices in the realm of operating systems, and there are other device managers. The Windows device manager typically has a variety of different hardware devices including the computer, disk drives, display adapters, CD-ROM drives, floppy disk controllers, floppy disk drives, human interface devices, IDE controllers, keyboards, monitors, ports. The examiner can verify this on his Windows operating system by looking in the Windows device manager. The Windows device manager has a long list of various hardware devices.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection

The examiner rejected the claims of the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in light of Barrett United States patent 5,727,129.

The present invention is essentially an improved task manager logging tool that combines PC tasks of process logging, performance logging, and hardware logging along with web browser application logging. With the Barrett reference having no mention of hardware, the examiner must withdraw the anticipation rejection. The Barrett reference does not have the word hardware in it. There is also no reference of logging of hardware activity, or hardware device activity.

The Barrett reference states one of the objectives as, "it is a further objective of the invention to facilitate access by the user between pages which were previously visited, without the necessity of visiting intermediate pages in between." (Col 5, lines 8-11) The Barrett reference states one of the objectives as, "it is a further object of the invention to provide a system which takes advantage of the user's past usage, including individual pages visited and sequences of pages visited." Therefore, the Barrett reference is focused on and relates to improved browser performance. The present invention is more focused on PC management and has improved browser performance as only one facet of the totality of the invention.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection

The examiner has cited Bauersfield United States patent 6,195,679 and Barrett United States patent 5,727,129. Both of the cited references relate to web browser application logging only. They do not involve logging of hardware processes. The combination of the prior art references does not teach the combination of hardware logging along with detailed application logging.

Bauersfield also does not have any reference of logging of hardware activity, or hardware device activity. Therefore, because Barrett United States patent 5,727,129 and Bauersfield United States patent 6,195,679 do not teach the logging of hardware processes, the references do not properly combine to teach the present claims of the invention. Bauersfield also has the same objectives as the Barrett reference, namely to improve the functionality of the browser. The browser embodiment in the present invention is only one embodiment, and is not the entire invention.

It appears that the examiner is making the conclusion that since software event logging is known, the combination of software event logging and hardware device logging is obvious. The applicant suggests that the combination as presently claimed is not obvious, and respectfully requests that the examiner withdraw the obviousness rejection.